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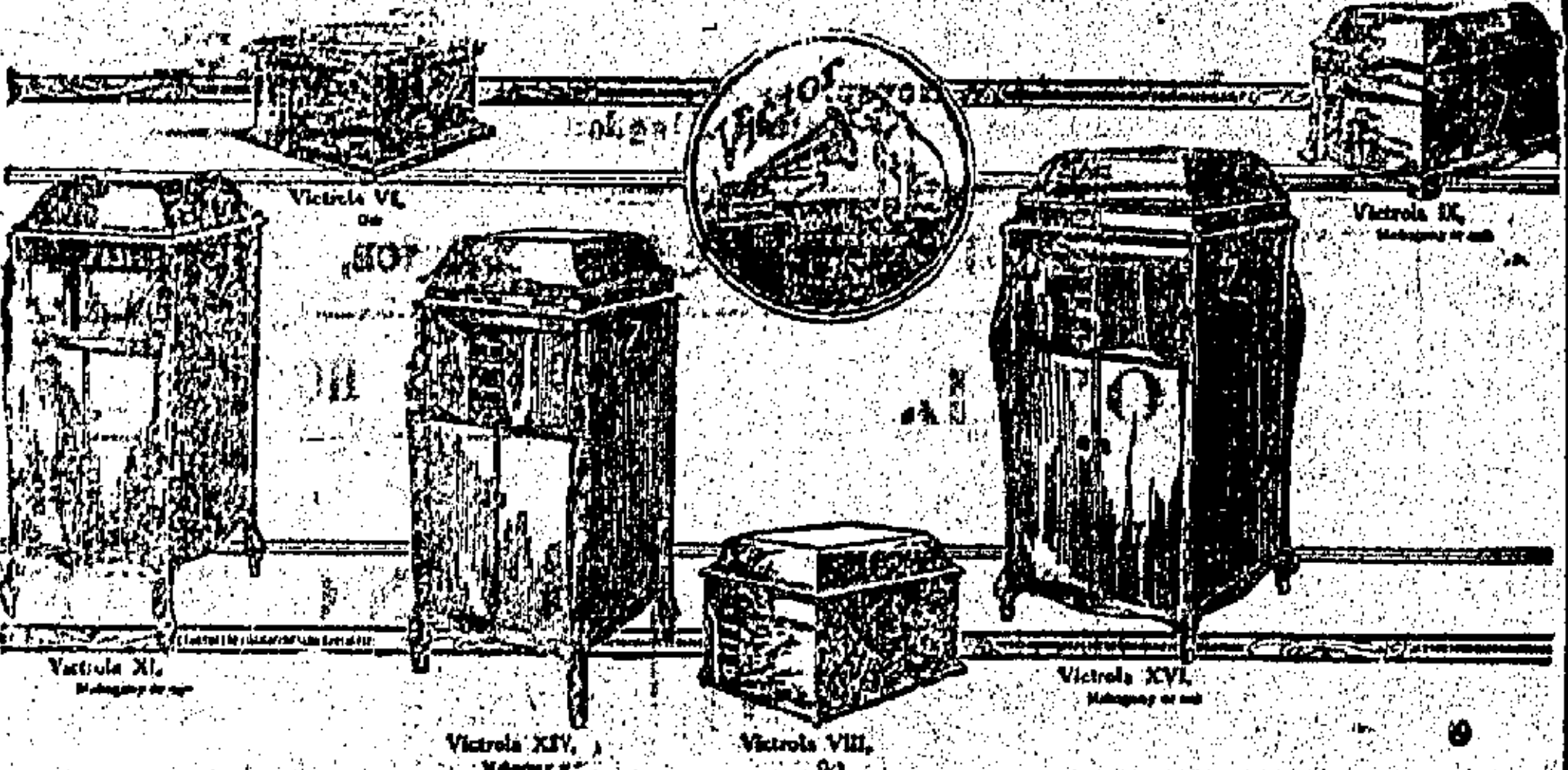
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7.00 a.m.	to 8.00 a.m.	Every 15 minutes	
8.00	" " " "	10	"
9.00	" " " "	10	"
10.00	" " " "	10	"
11.00	" " " "	10	"
12.00 noon	" " " "	10	"
1.00 p.m.	" " " "	10	"
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4.00	" " " "	10	"
5.00	" " " "	10	"
6.00	" " " "	10	"
NIGHT CARS			
6.00 p.m.	and 9.00 p.m.	9.30 to 11.00 p.m.	
Every Half-Hour			
11.00 p.m.	to 11.45 p.m.	Every Quarter-Hour	
SUNDAYS			
7.30 a.m.			
8.00	" " " "	10.30 a.m.	Every 15 minutes
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8.00	" " " "	8.30	" " " "
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NIGHT CARS as on Week Days.			

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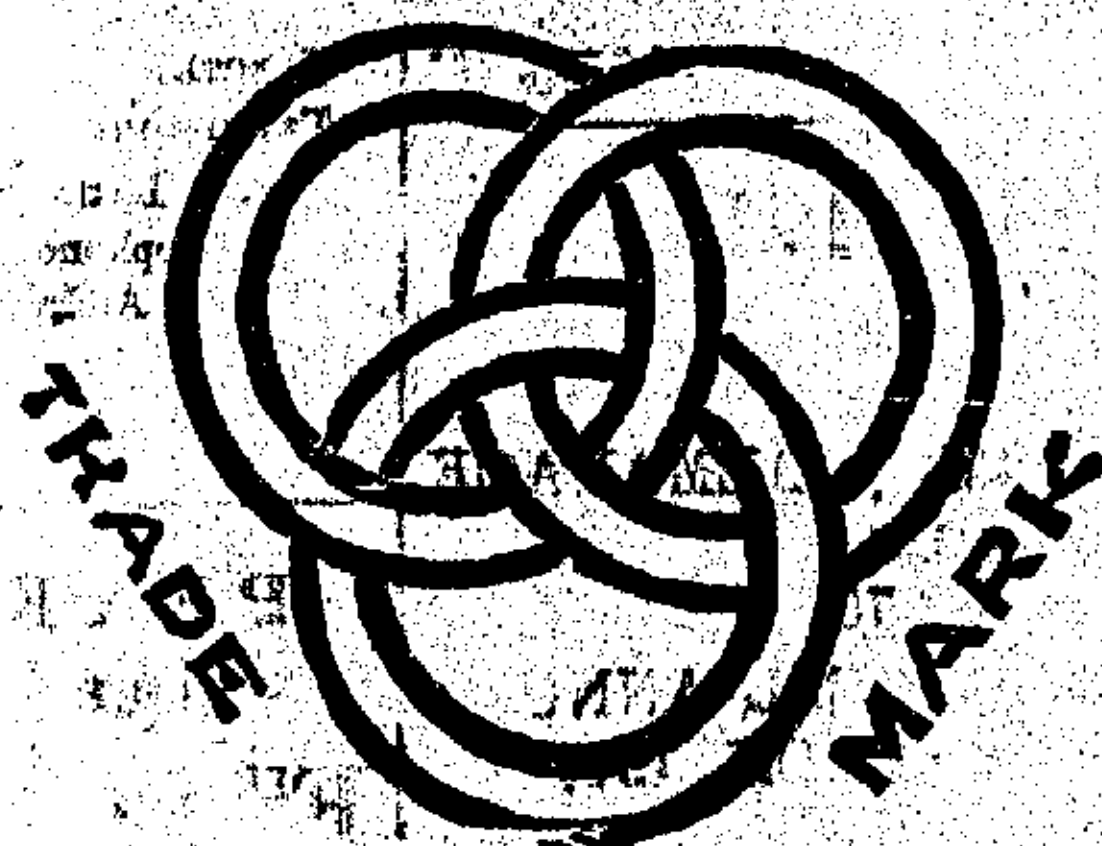


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CANTON NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Canton, March 6th.

NATIVE BANK ROBBERY.

On the evening of the 25th ultimo, several robbers rushed into the native bank, Tak Chan, at Sap Sun Hong, and got away with about five hundred dollars in Hongkong notes and a quantity of subsidiary silver coins. One of the robbers threw a bomb and several of the bank staff and occupants of the neighbouring shops were seriously wounded.

THE SALE OF ARMS.

The local government has noticed recently that people are selling arms privately to robbers in this city, Fatsan, Kongmoon, Chuan Chune and other parts. The local authorities have therefore sent out over ten detectives to the above-mentioned places in order to check the practice.

REWARD OFFERED FOR THE ARREST OF NGAI KAI HON.

Ngai Kai Hon, a subordinate of General Lung Chai Kwong, who is alleged to have murdered the reformers at the meeting held at Hoi Chu during last year, is now reported to have been plotting against the local government. The Military Governor, Luk Wing Ting, has therefore notified the Police and Magistrates throughout the Province that a reward of \$10,000 is offered for the man's arrest.

GENERAL LUNG AND KING CHOW REVENUE.

General Lung Chai Kwong is reported to have collected taxes at Kingchow aggregating more than ten thousand dollars without remitting any of this money to the local government.

ITALY'S CLAIMS.

POLITICAL ASPECT OF THE ROME CONFERENCE.

(BY FRANCIS GRIBBLE.)

Rumour has naturally been busy with the objects of Mr. Lloyd George's journey to Rome; and we may safely follow the *Corriere d'Italia* in attributing political as well as military significance to the conference in which he took part. Italy's claims, and the attitude, actual or presumed, of certain other Powers towards those claims, have been discussed with a review of the questions involved seems a most natural sequel of recent changes in the political direction of the various countries concerned in the forthcoming re-settlement of Europe.

What Italy wants may be summed up, in rough outline, under three heads:—1. The frontiers, Istria, and Dalmatia, pushed forward to such strategic frontiers as will secure the future defence of these possessions, and including the ports of Trieste, Pola, Fiume, and Cattaro.

2. Vallons, and such concessions in Southern Albania and Northern Epirus as will make Italy the undisputed mistress of the Adriatic, relieved from all danger of Greek rivalry.

3. A Mediterranean zone, not at present exactly defined, but "in proportion" to quote an Italian writer, "to our needs and rights and in accordance with the desired equilibrium in that sea."

A SIMPLIFIED SITUATION. Doubt as to the view which the rest of the Allies took of these requirements has unquestionably not been without its effect. Newspaper polemics on some of the points have sometimes reached a pitch of extreme violence; but a good deal has happened since the controversy was so acute, and the regulation of the matter will probably be found to be a good deal easier now than it was even a few months ago.

The attitude of Russia, which called forth heated protest from Italy in the early part of 1915, may be expected to be modified by the advantages now guaranteed to Russia on the Bosphorus and in the Dardanelles, while the failure of Greece—of official Greece, at all events—to follow M. Venizelos in responding to Lord Grey's overture, obviously simplifies certain other aspects of the problem.

If Greece and Italy had both been our friends, British sentiments might have been torn and divided, and the solution of several thorny questions might have taxed the ingenuity of diplomats. Matters are very different now that King Constantine threatens to attack in the rear the armies which M. Venizelos invited to Salonika. Philhellism is out of court, and regard for Greek aspirations can no longer operate as a barrier to Italian ambitions in this quarter.

In the North Adriatic, on the other hand, the conflict between Italian and Jugoslav, or Serbian, claims cannot be similarly eliminated. Some of the territories demanded by Italy on both historic and strategic grounds do unquestionably contain a majority of Slav inhabitants, and their attribution to Italy threatens to create a new problem of irredentism. Certainly it is difficult for us, as the Allies of both claimants, to side emphatically with either of them against the other. What we have to work for is an understanding satisfactory to both of them, and in the atmosphere of mutual good will which victory engenders, that result ought not to be unattainable. Probably it has already been achieved in principle, and now only needs to be worked out in detail.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

ARMY OF INDUSTRY.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN ON HIS TASK.

LABOUR MINISTER'S PLANS.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain received a great ovation at Birmingham, on Jan. 20th, on his first appearance at a public meeting as Director-General of National Service. He announced that very shortly he would issue an appeal to the people to join a new Industrial Army. It would entail some sacrifice, but this would be slight compared with the sacrifice of those in the trenches. As the raising of this Industrial Army was necessary to the successful prosecution of the war, compulsion would be applied in the event of the failure of voluntary effort.

The object of the meeting, which was held in the Central Hall, was to put before the country the proposals of the National Alliance of Employers and Employed for the handling of the problem of unemployment or labour dislocation after the war. Mr. Neville Chamberlain, who presided, was accompanied by Mr. Hodge, Minister of Labour, and on the platform were men representative of Capital and Labour.

The proposals of the National Union are as follows:—(a) That power should be obtained from Parliament to set up, without delay, a Central Statutory Board to regulate and supervise:—

(b) The reinstatement in civil employment of civilian workers now in Government or controlled establishments;

(c) Any general redistribution of labour arising out of the war.

Appropriate transfers of existing powers and duties will have to be made by the various Government Departments to the Central Statutory Board, so that complete authority shall be vested in the new Board. Mr. Neville Chamberlain said we were now in the third winter of the war, and upon what we did in the course of the next few weeks might depend the answer to the question whether we should win the victory next spring or have to endure a fourth winter of hostilities. The enemy was like a great boulder on the side of a hill. We had undermined it and we had seen it totter, but we had not yet dislodged it from its base. If we could only apply to it one great and sustained effort we could send it rolling down the hill. But if we failed to put into the past the last ounce of our strength the boulder would only settle more securely into its place, and we should find our task indefinitely prolonged.

What we must do (he proceeded) is sufficient reserves of trained men to enable us to put forward our utmost strength and carry the struggle to a successful conclusion.

The Military Service Acts have already given us the greater part of the men of military age and fitness who are not protected by Government exemption of one kind or another. In order to get the drafts we require we shall have to ask the munition works, the mines, the industries, that are connected with war work, and agriculture, to make fresh adjustments of their man-power. At the same time we have got to find substitutes from other trades to take the places of those who join the Forces.

That is my task. I have to act as dentist to the nation. (Laughter.) There are a certain number of teeth to be extracted, and I have got to take them out with as little inconvenience to the victim as I possibly can. (Laughter.) I have got to inflict the least possible pain and hardship on the individual and do the least possible injury to industry. At the same time I am asked to provide a new set of artificial teeth which shall fit the mouth, and if not quite as good as the old ones, will, at any rate, enable the patient to bite his food. (Laughter and cheers.)

Continuing, Mr. Chamberlain said a nation organized for war had to provide three essentials for the Army, munitions, and money. It was a colossal task to organize the whole nation so that these three essentials might be produced to the fullest possible extent, but if it was faced with courage and enthusiasm it could be successfully carried out. The Prime Minister has said it shall be done, if possible, by voluntary effort. The Germans are proud of giving me encouragement, because every time they hear they have made about the war has turned out to be wrong. (Cheers.) I want the nation to understand that the Government are very much in earnest about this matter, and that while they desire to give the nation every possible opportunity of their own volition to come forward in their country's need, they will not hesitate to take any steps that may be necessary to bring the war to a successful conclusion including compulsory national service if voluntary service is not found sufficient. (Cheers.)

A GREAT APPEAL. It will be my duty very shortly to issue a great appeal to the country—an appeal to our people to join a new industrial army. In doing so, I do not wish to suggest to any man that by becoming a volunteer in this army he is going to better his position. There are a certain number of people who write to me, and who need to think that my task is to find a job for every man. It is a mistake; my task is to find a man for every job. My volunteers will not better their position. On the contrary, I am going to ask them to put up with hardship and sacrifice. Who is there who thinks of the hardships and sacrifices that are being endured by our brave comrades in the trenches who will not be anxious to make the very much smaller sacrifice which I am going to ask for? (Cheers.)

On the motion of Mr. R. Harcourt, Speaker (President of the Midland Employers' Federation), seconded by Mr. W. J. Davis (Brass Workers' Association), a resolution was carried declaring that the co-operation of employers and employed was essential to the success of any scheme for replacing in civilian life men now in the forces or dealing with similar problems after the war, and urging the Government to give a trial to the proposals of the National Alliance.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

RECENT SEISMIC DISTURBANCES AT HAKONE.

In his report on the recent Hakone-yama Seismic Disturbances, Dr. F. Omori, of Tokyo University, says the shocks were by no means sudden and spontaneous, being the effect induced by the recent extraordinary activity along the whole Fuji volcanic chain. The Hakone-yama made, so to speak, according to the pre-arranged order, a manifestation of activity in the form of numerous small earthquakes and earth-sounds ("moids"). As the mountain is a dead volcano there is no fear of an actual outburst, while the volcanic-earthquakes, though sometimes quite numerous, never attain the magnitude and intensity of a great destructive shock, capable of destroying ordinary Japanese dwelling houses.

The "moids" or earth-sounds, which are in reality small local earthquakes and seem to have taken place occasionally in the Hakone district for several years past, became sensible on the 7th of January, 1917, greatly increasing in force after 9 p.m. on the 30th of that month. The maximum frequency was reached between 9 p.m. on the same day and 2 o'clock on the next morning, the total number of these disturbances, recorded by Mr. Nishimura, of Utsunomiya, amounting to over 242 in the course of the 12 hours ending with 6 a.m. on the 31st. Since then the frequency, subject to occasional fluctuations, has gradually decreased.

The seismic sounds were heard at Moto-Hakone towards the N.W.N., at Ashinaga towards the N.W., at Yunohara towards the W., slightly E., at Utsunomiya towards the S., slightly E., etc. From these results, coupled with the fact that the earthquakes were much more numerous and intense at the above-mentioned places than at Miyashita or Yumoto, it can be concluded that the origins of the disturbances were situated within a circular area about 2 miles in diameter, including the Komaga-take and Kami-yama peaks and the region to the N.E. of Lake Ashi. The area thus determined occupies nearly the centre of the old crater ring, having no relation with the old fumaroles and solfataras at O-jigoku ("Great Hell"), which were the site of the latest but pre-historic explosion of the Hakone volcano. The entire absence of damage attending the strong shock at 0.40 a.m. on the January 31st, must be attributed to the comparatively great depth of the seismic focus. Had the origin of the recent disturbances been quite superficial and very near to the O-jigoku, then the case would have been one of the surface display of the volcanic activity which might have led to some sort of outburst. On the contrary, however, the source of disturbances seems to have been located at a depth beneath the centre of the mountain; the volcanic energy, no longer able to make explosions, having so far receded downwards.

MR. HODGE AND LABOUR EXCHANGE. Mr. Hodge said that, as a trade unionist, he did not understand why it was that trade unionists were so much afraid of arbitration. He mentioned that the workmen engaged in the iron and steel industries were the best paid in the United Kingdom. The society with which he was concerned, the Steel Smelters' Union, had not had a strike with an associated employer since 1888.

Dealing with the problem of demobilization, he said—Not a day passes that I have not a consultation with my chief officials as to the best method of tackling the subject of the best machinery for carrying it out. There are the Labour Exchanges. I may tell you confidentially that the whole of the staff were very angry about the things I said of the Labour Exchanges. (Laughter.) But can you wonder at it? I am the only chief who has even had a talk with the heads of the departments of the Labour Exchanges. One of the first things I did was to have all the permanent officials meet me, so that I might have a heart-to-heart talk with them. (Laughter.) I told them what I had said publicly:—"The employers don't love you; the workmen don't love you. What is the cause?" (Laughter.) It is not to be wondered at that the officials, in many instances, became lethargic, for neither the Minister nor his Parliamentary Secretary ever came near them either to find fault with them or to give them his blessing. I have had all the subordinate officials up from the country, and had another heart-to-heart talk with them, and they all went away feeling nearly 2in. taller, because they realized that there was one who took an interest in their work. (Cheers.)

We want live men, men of sympathy and understanding, in the Labour Exchanges. It would be a lasting disgrace if when our lads come back, a sort of wooden image were behind the counters to receive them. (Cheers.) We are going to have 600 or 700 new Exchanges. The Exchanges and sub-Exchanges will be so distributed that none of our returned boys will have to go farther than five miles, and when he gets there he will find telephonic communication all round, so that nothing may be left undone to get him properly fitted with a job. (Cheers.)

Dealing with international trade relations after the war, Mr. Hodge said the loudest and most prolonged cheer of the evening by saying, "So far as Germany is concerned, nothing from that country shall come into this if I can prevent it." "Do you think," he added, "I would broadcast from the baker next door if he kicked my dog? Besides, we must have an open door for our open door." (Cheers.)

Mr. Huth Jackson said the promoters of the National Alliance had two main objects in view. One was that whatever excuses this country might have for not being prepared for war we must make it quite certain that we were prepared for peace. The next was to provide for conferences between employers and workmen in cases of dispute before extreme measures were taken.

A provisional consultative committee for the Birmingham and Midland district was appointed to promote the objects of the National Alliance.—Times.

FAR EASTERN MEN AND THE WAR.

A Parsi resident of Canton has received the following letter, dated Jan. 14th, 1917, from his son, who has been fighting in Mesopotamia for the past twenty months:—"Dear Father, I am doing well and am quite comfortable. Don't please, worry about sending me any additional underwear, etc., for I have more than I am allowed to carry. We in this part of the world are doing splendidly, and our men are very anxious to come to grips with our enemy; we are not at all fed up. Our new provinces are showing signs of reviving trade, here, so much for British occupation."

Mr. S. H. Hollamby, formerly of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway, has left Shanghai to offer his services to the Government.

It will no doubt be of interest to his friends in the Far East to hear that Temp. Lieut-Col. M. H. Logan, R.E., of the firm of Messrs. Palmer & Turner, of Shanghai and Hongkong, has been awarded the Military Cross for good work done under heavy fire on many occasions during the "push" on the Somme. He was employed first of all on preparations for the advance, and then on forward work, nearly always ahead of the guns during the whole of the operations.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

EXAMINATION OF RIFLES. All Martins and Winchesters are to be returned to the Armoury, Central Station, between the hours of 5.15 and 6 p.m., as follows:—All Martins, Wednesday, March 7th.—All Martins, Tuesday, March 13th.—All Winchesters, Musketry Sergeant Fisher will supervise. Members may attend in multi. Medical exemptions must return their rifles with the others.

INSPECTORS AND SERGEANTS.

Inspectors and Sergeants will attend in uniform at Police School for Oral Examination in Police Duties by Chief Inspector Kerr at 5.30 p.m. as follows:—

Monday, March 12th.—All Crown Sergeants and Sergeants of Nos. 1 and 2 Companies.

Wednesday, March 14th.—All Chief Inspectors, Staff Inspectors Arculli and Potter, All Inspectors, and Staff Sergeants Fisher and Balcan.

Friday, March 16th.—All Crown Sergeants of Nos. 3 and 4 Companies, Mounted Police, Maxim Gunners, and Ambulance Platoon.

POLICE SCHOOL.

The following Classes are to be warned for attendance:—

Class IX.—Twelve Constables to be warned respectively by the Commanders of Nos. 1 and 2 Sections and 8 Constables by the O. C. Maxim Gunners.

Class X.—Thirty-two Constables to be warned by the O. C. No. 2 Company.

Class XI.—Thirty-two Constables to be warned by the O. C. No. 2 Company.

The above Classes will attend School in uniform at Headquarters Club at 5.30 p.m. during the week commencing Monday, March 10th. Dates for attendance will appear in Orders. Members will provide their own material for making notes.

DEFALTERS.

The attention of all Inspectors and Sergeants is drawn to Standing Order 79. They will fail in their duty if they merely forward any excuse made by an alleged defaulter without checking and expressing an opinion on the value of such excuse.

All documents requiring to be attached to a Report Sheet are to be fastened on the back and not on the front of the Sheet.

MUSKETRY COURSE, PART II.

The following will attend for Range Duties on Sunday next, March 11th:—Staff Inspectors McEwen, Mackenzie and Arculli, Crown Sergeants Wilks and Ford, and Sergeant Goodwin.

HEADQUARTERS CLUB.

Members of the General Committee and all Sub-Committees are requested to attend at the Club on Friday, March 9th, at 5.30 p.m.

POLICE RESERVE GAZETTE.

The Committee will meet at the D.S.P.'s office on Friday, March 9th, at 6 p.m. (Sgd.) F. C. JENKIN, D.S.P. (R.).

Hongkong, March 6th, 1917.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE.

HONGKONG AND CHINA DISTRICT.

SAIYINGPOK DIVISION.

Fall in with the Hongkong Volunteer Reserves on the Cricket Ground on Saturday, the 10th inst., at 1.45 p.m. Dress—Shorts, puttees, helmets, haversacks (fitted), water-bottles (filled), great-coats (rolled). Street-chairs will be required. (Sgd.) E. RAFFES, (Officer in charge of District). Hongkong, March 6th, 1917.

THE KAISER AND CHEAP TRANSPORT.

Mr. A. W. Gattie, in an address delivered at a meeting of the Royal Institute recently on "Goods Transport Reform at Home and Overseas," said railway managers and Board of Trade officials were opposed to cheap transport in Great Britain. Notwithstanding his proposals for the introducing of machinery at terminals for handling goods had been before the Board of Trade for over eight years, yet the officials had done nothing but write unconvincing letters.

By way of contrast, he told how the Kaiser, reading in a London paper an account of his proposals, communicated with the German Consul-General in London, who sent a report to Berlin. Then Herr von Schöwen, of the German Ministry of Transport, came over from Berlin in June, 1914, and made a thorough examination of the machinery at Battersea and took copious notes. As he left, Mr. Gattie works he said, "Kaisers is an unequalled instrument for mobilization."

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.
UNLAWFUL POSSESSION.

A Chinese, employed as a "boy" on board the s.s. *Empire of Japan*, was found by the Indian watchman at Hung-hom Docks with 150 rounds of revolver ammunition in his possession. He could give no reasonable explanation of its presence in his pocket, and yesterday, Mr. Melbourne fined him \$75, and ordered the ammunition to be confiscated.

DESTRUCTIVE GOATS.

An Indian was charged before Mr. Wood with allowing a number of goats belonging to him to stray on a plantation at Chungshan. A Chinese constable said there was a lot of damage being done by goats in the plantation in that district. In this instance, he thought there were from ten to a dozen young trees damaged. The Magistrate said he would like to have a report of the exact amount of damage done before going further, and adjourned the case until Thursday in order to allow this report to be prepared.

A BOILERMAKER'S LAPSE.

A Chinese boilermaker, who had been employed for eighteen years in the Hung-hom Docks, was charged before Mr. Melbourne with having stolen a quantity of brass from the docks.

Inspector Macdonald said some of the brass was found concealed in a belt worn by the defendant and some in the breast-pocket of his jacket.

Defendant said he knew nothing about the brass till he was searched by the Indian watchman, who must have put it in his pocket when searching him.

Sentence of fourteen days' imprisonment and four hours' stocks was passed.

A CASE OF SNATCHING.

A Chinese boy appeared before Mr. Wood charged with snatching a silver watch, with hair Albert and jade-stone and gold appendages, from the person of a Chinese in the street. The theft was accomplished by several men jostling the complainant, while the defendant snatched the watch. Defendant was ordered to receive ten strokes with the birch, and thereafter to be imprisoned for six weeks with hard labour.

A rising out of the same theft a Chinese was charged before Mr. Melbourne with aiding and abetting. Defendant was seen among the men who jostled the complainant and was noticed to run away when the theft was discovered. He was remanded till Thursday, bail being granted in \$500.

FRAUDULENT CONSPIRACY.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. Melbourne passed sentence of three months' imprisonment on a Chinese charged with having, in conspiracy with another Chinese (still at large), obtained by fraudulent means and false pretences a sum of \$250 from a Chinese woman.

The story revealed by the evidence was that the complainant was about to change \$250 into silver and subsidiary coins, when defendant informed her that he had a friend, an official in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, who could change the money for her, and that by utilising his services she would get \$10 extra for each hundred dollars in notes. She consented and was introduced to the "friend," who was brought out of the bank by the defendant. He was dressed in European clothes, and looked like a genuine employee of the bank. The woman handed the money over to the "friend," who requested them to wait outside while he carried through the transaction. They waited for half-an-hour. Then, getting uneasy, they went into the bank, but could find no trace of the "friend," who, no doubt, had passed out at the other door. A search by the constable at the bank, assisted by the defendant, proved futile, and the bogus bank official has not since been seen.

The *Tidningen* states that an extensive system of espionage has been discovered in Sweden. A spy named Hendriksen, who escaped from Finland, has been arrested with others on a charge of having informed German agents of the movement of Entente ships in the Baltic and the Gulf of Bothnia to assist the German torpedo boats.

THE SERGEANT AND THE SHIP'S MATE.

A LIVELY TIME AT YAU MATI.

Yesterday a case was called before Mr. Melbourne, at the Magistracy, in which a ship's mate named William James Cooper was charged by Sergeant Tulloch with being drunk and disorderly at Yau mati, on 20th January.

Mr. Goldring, solicitor, who appeared for the defence, said he wished, before the case was taken up, to intimate that he was issuing a writ against Sergeant Tulloch, on behalf of defendant, for unlawful arrest, assault and battery. He thought it was only fair to Sergeant Tulloch that he should have an opportunity of consulting a solicitor or the Captain Superintendent of Police before he (Mr. Goldring) cross-examined him in connection with the present case.

Sergeant Tulloch said he preferred going on with the case. Mr. Goldring might serve his writ if he cared, but it would make no difference to him.

The Sergeant then deposed that on the date mentioned, while he was on duty in charge of the Yau mati Police Station, a richa coolie came in and reported that the defendant had stolen his richa cushion. Witness went out with the coolie, who pointed out the defendant's house. There witness saw defendant and asked him if he had taken the richa cushion and he admitted he had. Witness asked by what right he had done it, and requested that the cushion should be handed back to the coolie at once. Defendant then started to abuse witness, using the most foul and filthy language. He asked witness what he thought he was and said he had no right to come to his door at all. Witness retorted that that was not the question, and ordered him to bring out the cushion. Defendant went into the house, brought out the cushion and threw it on the ground in front of the richa coolie. Witness said: "Lift the cushion up and give it to the coolie," but, instead of complying, defendant pushed his (witness) arm on one side, still cursing and swearing, and using fearfully abusive language. Immediately defendant touched him witness arrested him. Defendant started to struggle and to resist arrest. They had several severe tussles on the way to the station, and more than once they were both lying on the road. Eventually witness had to put defendant into the coolie's richa, and the coolie pulled him to the station. Defendant was very drunk. At the station defendant was not satisfied with the place given him, but insisted on coming to the desk and seeing everything that was on it. Sergeant Grant, who was asleep in bed, got up and shouted down to witness to "Put that man in the cells and don't have such a noise in the charge-room." (Lance-Sergeants Murphy (137) and Murphy (129) were in the charge-room at the time. The former left the Colony the other day for the front.)

Mr. Goldring, before the case proceeded further, demanded to be informed if the parties mentioned were to be called and the case completed at once. He objected to the case being taken piecemeal—a bit to-day and then an adjournment.

Sergeant Tulloch replied that he could get Sergeant Grant and the other witnesses in the course of an hour or so. Mr. Goldring said he was not going to hang on at the Court for an hour or any time. If the witnesses were not available he preferred that the case should be adjourned at once till another day.

The Magistrate said it was a matter for the police to decide.

Sergeant Tulloch said it would perhaps be as well to adjourn till another day if Mr. Goldring was not prepared to come back later that day.

The case was ultimately adjourned till Thursday.

"VICTORIOUS BY DIVINE RIGHT."

Dr. Hofferich, Minister of Finance, speaking on Jan. 22nd at a dinner in honour of the Presidents of the Parliaments of the Central Powers, at which also the Imperial Chancellor was present, said, in reference to the Allies' refusal of Germany's peace offer and their declaration of "a war of destruction to the knife":

"Our enemies must learn to understand that among us there is no military caste but a great national army which, in spite of all, will hold on and be victorious by virtue of the divine right of existence of our peoples and of their inexhaustible strength and readiness for sacrifice."

Dr. Sylvester, President of the Austrian Lower House, said:

"The peace message which sprang forth from the idea that the strong man must yield was useless. In the coming last fight, which will be exceedingly hard, sanguinary, full of sacrifices, and laborious, we will be faithful to our heroic sons at the front."

SPORT.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.
H.K.F.C. v. NAVY.

These teams met yesterday, in the semi-final of the Hongkong League on the Club ground, and the Club, by a fairly easy victory, gained the right to contest with the Royal Engineers the honours in this competition.

The Club started in very determined fashion, and Crocker was soon called upon. Clemo put the ball behind, thus spoiling a rather promising effort, and a few seconds afterwards Cornish robbed Stalker when the latter was right in the goalmouth. The Club were not to be daunted, however, and before the game had been in progress many minutes, Stalker had registered the first goal for his side with a very fine shot, which gave Crocker no chance at all. Robinson, who was inclined to leave his position rather too much by allowing himself to be drawn into the centre, made several very good efforts, from one of which he was narrowly prevented from scoring by Biggs.

The Navy goal was in great danger for a time, and the situation looked very critical when the Club very confidently appealed for "hands" in the penalty area. It was an accidental case, however, and was not allowed. The Navy then paid a brief visit to the other end, but Goldenberg saved without difficulty, and the civilians came back again. Stalker got through but Crocker rushed out and stopped him, the ball going back to McTavish, who put it behind. Stalker managed his second goal with a shot that Crocker should have saved. The Club were frequently offside at this stage, much to the disgust of some of their forwards. The Club maintained the pressure, and Stalker, McTavish and Clemo all had chances, but Biggs finally removed the ball from the danger zone. A muddle by Cornish and Crocker let Stalker through again, and he rushed the ball into goal with his body. Walker put in a good shot, which just missed the post, and shortly afterwards the same player again had hard lines with a shot following a nice pass by Clemo. Black was beaten by Kitson, but Naiton got back and recovered the ball before the Club could get another chance. A free kick not far from goal gave the sailors another chance. The shot was well taken, but Goldenberg cleared in good style. Robinson made one of his lightning efforts but finished by putting over. Another good effort by him found none of the Club forwards in a position to make use of the final pass. The fourth goal was the result of a brilliant individual effort by Clemo, and was greeted with well-deserved applause. The Club were leading at half-time by four goals to nil.

During the interval the sailors rearranged their team a little, but, although they started off in a lively manner, the game was always too one-sided to be really interesting. The Club have discovered quite a useful new man in Clemo, and he with McTavish put in a lot of useful work in this half. Blamby and Cornish tried shots at the Club citadel but without result, and, after the first few minutes, the Club transferred play to the neighbourhood of their opponents' goal, and kept it there practically until the end. In spite, however, of continuous pressure Crocker was only beaten once. This goal was the result of a great struggle by McTavish on the left wing. After beating several opponents, he finally passed to Clemo, who, in turn, passed to Stewart. The last-named player was close in and made no mistake, putting the ball well into Crocker's reach. The Navy captain played a good game in this half and brought off several very creditable saves. Result:—H.K.F.C., 5; Navy, 0. Referee—Mr. Wright. Teams:—H.K.F.C.—Goldenberg; Black and Raiton; Rodger, Stewart and Chasels; Robinson, Walker, McTavish and Clemo. Navy—Crocker; Cornish and Biggs; Murphy, Blamby and Jones; Smith, Travis, Godfrey, Kitson and Clave.

TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

SEMI-FINAL U.S. LEAGUE.

R.E. v. K.S.L.I.—Club Ground. Kick-off, 5 p.m. Referee—Mr. Wright.

R.E.—Wilkinson; Blumfield and Coxon; Brennan, Smith and Horton; Millard, Townsend, Scott, White and Pearce.

K.S.L.I.—Pritchards; Clayton and Wall; Morris, Williams and Hunt; Bradlock, Machin, Pritchards; Jones and Peplow.

HONGKONG SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

To-morrow (Thursday) at 5.15 p.m., the trophies and medals for the Senior and Junior Schools' League will be distributed to the winners by the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Mr. Claud Severn, C.M.G., on the Queen's College ground, Causeway Bay.

In each League St. Joseph's College are the winners, the runners-up in the Senior being St. Stephen's College, and in the Junior Queen's College second eleven.

The ceremony will be preceded by an exhibition match—St. Joseph's v. the Rest—commencing at 4 p.m. The teams will be as follows:

St. Joseph's:—W. Michael; Chan Fuk Yu; Chan Tung Hoi; Tso Chas Wan; S. A. M. Saper; Peter Go; Tin Yuh On; J. Silva; R. M. Omar; K. Valois; J. Leeson.

The Rest:—Wong On (Queen's); Kong Shan Yan (Dioc.); Pun Fan Nam (St. Stephen's); Ko Kin Fan (Queen's); Ng Sha Heung (St. Stephen's) (Captain); Ng Hong Tai (St. Paul's); Wong Pok Hing (Queen's); Chin Kwok Leung (St. Stephen's); Cecil Chan (Ying Wah); Kwok Ping Kwong (St. Paul's); Kor Bu Leuk (Dioc.). Reserves:—Chan Shin Pui (Wantsai); Young Wing Ching (Yau mati).

THE LATE MR. A. H. HEWITT.

PULPIT REFERENCE.

In the course of his sermon on Sunday morning at St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, the Rev. N. O. Pope, made the following reference to the late Mr. A. H. Hewitt:

"When we come in contact with a man or a woman who is genuine, real, we are conscious of an aroma, as it were, a sweet savour, a fragrance wafted over to us. It was so in the case of A. H. Hewitt. I did not know him intimately, but I never saw and talked with him but I felt the better for it. He sort of freshened one up. He was a man unspoiled by 30 years of Hongkong, and that is saying a good deal. I have known men spoiled by less than 30 months of Hongkong. I dare say that there was not a man on the Coast of China the equal of A. H. Hewitt in sheer ability, ability, too, of so extraordinarily versatile a character. But it was not that that impressed me so much; it was the transparent sincerity of the man. Those clear direct eyes of his were a true index to a life actuated by lofty principles. The strength of a winsome simplicity was his. I think that was why one liked him better each time one met him. His was a heart that would never have grown old; it was so essentially childlike in its directness. He irradiated sweetness—at least, that was always my impression, and I don't think I shall easily forget it. I can well believe that those who knew him best are conscious of a blank; but the aroma of his character will abide. The Colony is much the poorer for the loss of him. We could do with more men of his type. The sudden tragedy that removed his presence from us will surely, in God's good providence, fix in the memories of all who knew him the example of a man whom it was good to meet. We thank God for his life, his devotion to duty, and his consistent character, the character of a man who was genuine to the core."

At the close of the service the congregation stood while the "Dead March" from *Saul* was played by the organist.

YOUNG MEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE "INDISPENSABLES."

DEMAND FOR RELEASE.

The Westminster City Council passed a resolution on January 25th asking that all men in Government employment eligible for military service should be subject to the same conditions under the Military Service Act or Regulations, as to appearance before their respective local tribunals as the employees of borough councils, Poor Law boards, private individuals, or firms.

Mr. Harvey Clifton, who moved the resolution, declared that there were hundreds of young men in Government employ who would only too readily leave to join the Forces, but for the fact that their chiefs, who had lived so long in the easy style, did not wish to be inconvenienced. Government officials and clerks were not obliged to appear before tribunals, and it was left to the chiefs of departments to say who were indispensable, with the result that there were at present available hundreds of men who should be in the Army. Some were anxious to go, but others were absolute shirkers, and were being sheltered behind the inability of the chiefs to adjust themselves to new conditions. What was good for the private individual goose should be sauce for the Government gander.

In the recruiting office at Whitehall there was a man of 22, with no ties, earning 23 10s. a week for doing a clerk's work that any girl of 15 could do. His chief regarded that man as indispensable and consequently remained out of the Army. In the office of the Public Trustee was a nest of eligibles receiving fat salaries for simply doing mechanical work. In the Trading with the Enemy branch, the head of it was a man of 30 and the majority of the staff were also of military age. In the same department there was a supervisor of military age doing detail work at a salary of £300, and assistant supervisors at £200 a year each, supervising the work of others. A clerk at the Board of Trade who worked from 9 till 4 was marked by his chief as indispensable, although he was a young man and could find time to go to the City for two hours a day and give organ recitals.

Colonel Bulton said that men who wanted to do their duty should be allowed to do it.

Councillor Reditch said that if the Council had taken that action 12 months ago they would not have those terrible reserved occupations which resulted in thousands of men still being out of khaki.

A member said that the aristocracy and the workers had done their duty; it was the middle class who were the shirkers, and they escaped by the aid of their friends in the tribunals. (A voice: "Rubbish.") If they could comb out all those people they could have another great comb-out by which men of 40 and weak men could be brought out to work in industries.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

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29

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

NOTICE.

A MEETING will be held on MONDAY next, the 12th inst., at 5.15 P.M., in the CITY HALL, to consider the best method of celebrating "ST. GEORGE'S DAY" with a view to raising further funds for BRITISH WAR CHARITIES. All interested are earnestly invited to attend. [373]

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, AND REDUCED.

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the Office of the Company, St. George's Buildings, Chater Road, Victoria, Hongkong, on TUESDAY, the 27th day of March, 1917, at 11.30 A.M., for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the Directors for the year ending 31st December, 1916, and declaring a Dividend.

By Order of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
Hongkong, 6th March, 1917. [374]

NOW READY. THE DIRECTORY AND CHRONICLE

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1917

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QUEEN MARY'S NEEDLEWORK GUILD.

LADY MAY, President of the Guild in this Colony, invites all Ladies interested in the organisation of working parties for war work—whether in connection with War Charities Committee or not—to attend a Meeting at Government House TO-DAY (WEDNESDAY), 7th March, at 10.30 A.M., for the discussion of matters of general interest. [350]

HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

NOTICE.

ON and after 12th March, 1917, the hours for the Transaction of Business by the Hongkong Savings Bank will be 10 A.M. to 12 Noon, SATURDAYS included. For the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, N. J. STARR, Chief Manager. Hongkong, 5th March, 1917. [370]

NOTICE.

THE EXCHANGE BANKS beg to intimate to Shippers that, in view of the delay of Mails to Europe and the necessity for utilizing three routes, bills and all relative documents sent in for negotiation must be drawn in triplicate instead of in duplicate as heretofore. [365]

NOTICE.

WE beg to inform the Public and to those whom it may concern that Mr. N. EMANUEL ALLAY has this Day taken over our Business of Storekeepers, &c., including the Goodwill, and will henceforth carry on the said Business under the same style or Firm name, and our interest and responsibility in the said concern will cease on and after that date. THE PARSEE TRADING CO., Proprietors. Canton, 1st March, 1917. [371]

NOTICE.

WE, the Undersigned, beg to notify that we have established ourselves in Canton as General Merchants. HOGG & Co. [366]

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having Claims against the Estate of the late Mr. ALFRED HERBERT HEWITT are requested to forward them to the Undersigned on or before the 10th instant. JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER, Solicitors for the Executors. Hongkong, 3rd March, 1917. [367]

HONGKONG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL SHOW OF FLOWERS and VEGETABLES, to be held in the BOTANIC GARDENS, TO-MORROW (THURSDAY), the 8th March, at 2 to 6 P.M. Admission 5s.

Lady MAY will present the Prizes at 5 P.M. FRIDAY, the 9th March, at 10.30 A.M. to 3 P.M. Admission 5s. At 3 to 6 P.M. Admission 20 Cents.

The Band of the 18th Punjab will play on both days. Tea will be obtainable on the Ground. A. NICOL, Hon. Secretary. Hongkong, 28th February, 1917. [351]

INTIMATIONS

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE THIRTY-THIRD ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at St. George's Buildings, Chater Road, Victoria, on SATURDAY, the 10th March, 1917, at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1916, and electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors. The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from MONDAY, the 5th March, 1917, until SATURDAY, the 10th March, 1917, both days inclusive.

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., General Managers. Hongkong, 24th February, 1917. [344]

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, AND REDUCED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from THURSDAY, 1st March, to SATURDAY, 3rd March, 1917, both days inclusive. The return of Capital of \$2.50 per Share will be paid to Shareholders on and after the 15th March, 1917, on presentation of Share Certificates for endorsement.

By Order of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
Hongkong, 22nd February, 1917. [329]

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TO LET—FURNISHED.
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STRAWBERRY HILL, THE PEAK. Six Rooms, Garden and Tennis Court. "H. W. L." Apply to—1, Des Voeux Road Central. [188]

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2 NEW HOUSES new Building in Conduit Road. Ready for occupation on 1st February, 1917. For rent and other particulars apply to—H. M. H. NEMAZEE, 1 Des Voeux Road. [108]

TO LET.

NO. 42, ELGIN STREET. Apply to—PERCY SMITH, SETH & FLEMING. [105]

TO LET—AT THE PEAK.

FURNISHED, 2, Stewart Terrace. Apply—H. E. POLLOCK, Princes' Buildings. [97]

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GO DOWN in Duddell Street. Light and airy Office overlooking Statue Square. Moderate rent. For rent and other particulars apply to—Care of "Daily Press" Office. [68]

TO LET.

OFFICES, 2nd Floor, St. George's Buildings. Apply to—SHEWAN, TOMES & Co. [69]

TO LET.

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Gordon Terrace and Salisbury Avenue, Kowloon. A FLAT in Humphreys Buildings, Kowloon.

TO LET OR FOR SALE. KOWLOON MARINE LOT 48 with wharf area 33,000 sq. ft., suitable for Coal Storage or erection of Godown. Apply to—HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd., Alexandra Buildings. [321]

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Apply to—THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LTD. [22]

TO LET.

NO. 3, CAMERON VILLAS, No. 63, THE PEAK, FURNISHED. "HILANDONAN", No. 54, THE PEAK (Furnished). No. 3, GOUGH HILL (No. 102, THE PEAK), Furnished, for 3 or 4 months from 1st June, 1917.

No. 25, SHELLEY STREET. 8-ROOMED HOUSE at Mount Kellett. Furnished for 5 or 6 months.

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No. 25, BELLILIOS TERRACE, with entrance on Conduit Road. TWO GODOWNS in Duddell Street.

No. 2, DES VOEUX VILLAS, 51, PEAK (Unfurnished). No. 56, THE PEAK (5 CAMERON VILLAS). Apply to—Linstead & Davis. 3rd Floor, Alexandra Buildings. [30]

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG 7TH MARCH, 1917.

EXCHANGING THE PEN FOR THE SWORD.

When the disclosures were made of Germany's overtures to Mexico to launch an attack on America in the event of the latter country being driven to take up arms in defence of the lives and property of its citizens on the high seas it was intimated that some of the most sensational passages in Herr von ZIMMERMAN's dispatch had been withheld from the public. This seems highly probable. The gravity with which the situation is regarded may be gauged by the determination which President WILSON is showing in furtherance of his new policy of placing the United States in a position to command respect for its rights by force of arms. He seems to have realised suddenly that the pen may in some circumstances be exchanged with advantage for the sword, and that the best means of preserving peace is, after all, to be prepared for war. This view has always been held by a large and influential section of the American people, and, now that the security of the nation itself is threatened, it is, apparently, becoming general. At all events, President WILSON declares that the nation supports the Government with "unprecedented unanimity" in its demand for power to arm merchantmen and take other steps to meet the submarine menace. This demand, however, has been resisted by twelve members of the Senate, who talked out the Armed Neutrality Bill. As a consequence, President WILSON has decided to call a special session of the Senate and to revise the rules which regulate the proceedings of that body in such a way that it will no longer be possible for a "little group of men representing only their own opinions" to withstand "five hundred supporters of the Government's policy in a crisis fraught with more far-reaching possibilities of national danger than any Government ever experienced." Presumably, something in the nature of a time-limit for speeches will be introduced. There is obviously urgent need of some reform when a dozen obstructionists can ramble the entire nation. The Senate consists of ninety-six members. They are not directly elected by the people, like the House of Representatives, but are chosen by the Legislature of each State in the Union and serve for six years. Although the President conducts the foreign policy of the Republic, and, with the approval of the Senate, negotiates treaties with foreign Powers, a Declaration of War rests with Congress. Germany, we may be sure, has taken all these facts into consideration. The Senate, however, will find, as every similar non-representative body has found when it has abused its privileges for the purpose of thwarting the will of a free people, that it is engaged in a hopeless struggle from which it will emerge with its powers for mischief permanently curtailed. In this case, as there is only an insignificant minority to deal with, the task will be very simple. By this minority's action "the great Government of the United States," says President WILSON, "has been rendered helpless and contemptible," and "the impression will be created abroad that other Governments may act as they please without fear of America doing anything." There is little doubt that this impression has been created already, for in this imperfect world the motives of those who show exemplary forbearance in the face of great provocation are invariably misunderstood. Nations which have no scruples of their own cannot be expected to credit others with them. It is certain that America's evident desire to avoid war and to adjust differences by peaceful methods has been attributed by Germany to pusillanimity and has emboldened her to offer one affront after another. That she realised that her extravagant drafts upon it is conclusively proved by her intrigue with Mexico. The two-fold revelation which this furnishes of German insolence and German treachery has aroused the fierce indignation of the American people. It will be very surprising if it be not found, in the event of hostilities, that the old treaty between Prussia and the United States has been invoked for the purpose of enabling German subjects in America to create "diversions" in the interests of the Fatherland. Events will probably show whether this anticipation is correct or not, for President WILSON himself now admits that America, though standing firm in armed neutrality, "may even be drawn on by circumstances to a more immediate association in the great struggle itself."

The annual meeting of the Shareholders of the Green Island Cement Co., Ltd., will be held on the 27th inst.

The marriage is announced to take place shortly of Lieut. C. E. Hall, R.G.A., Hongkong, and Miss Blanche Watson, Dennis Villa, Kennedy Town.

A meeting to consider the celebration of St. George's Day with a view to raising funds for British War Charities will be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, next Monday afternoon.

At yesterday's meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board, the Medical Officer (Dr. Pearce) reported that since the last meeting of the Board, a fortnight ago, 49 cases of small-pox had occurred, and, during the same period, about 20,000 persons had been vaccinated.

A Chinese woman has reported to the police a daring case of highway robbery. She stated that while she was passing through Kowloon on her way home early on Monday morning two men attacked her, knocked her down, and forced from her wrists two pairs of bangles valued at \$47.

The members of the British Cabinet and the other Ministers have pooled their salaries, with the result that each will draw at the rate of \$2,000 a year, compared with \$4,000 drawn by each member of the last Cabinet. Mr. Lloyd George's salary as Prime Minister is not affected by the pooling arrangements.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SUPPORT BRITISH STORE-KEEPERS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—It would be interesting to know how many of the active canvassers for British "Silver Bullets" out here in China and in Hongkong practice what they preach in their own homes. That is, how many are supporting British tradespeople in preference to Chinese stores when ordering tinned provisions, wines and spirits, wearing apparel and general household goods. It may be argued that the Chinese stores and compare shops are cheaper, though I have only found them cheaper for standard brands—which they use as "leaders"—and far dearer in their prices for lesser-known articles. It seems hard to expect the British storekeeper to subscribe liberally to British war funds and charities, as he undoubtedly does, when he gets so little support from his fellow-countrymen in his business.—I am, sir, Yours faithfully,

CONSISTENT.

Canton, 6th March, 1917.

RACING IN WAR TIME.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—Although "Plebis" (whoever he may be), in his letter published in your issue of this morning, agrees with me that it would have been a great mistake to create "a very depressing effect on the Colony" by abandoning the Race Meeting, he takes exception to my statement that "patriotism is not manifested by open show, nor by unnecessary sacrifices," and he intimates his opinion that there can be no such thing, in these times, as unnecessary sacrifice.

What else would it have been but an unnecessary sacrifice to abandon the Race Meeting, if, as "Plebis" truly puts it, this would have caused much depression? I most thoroughly agree that no sacrifice of any kind is unnecessary if thereby good can be done to our country. But any sacrifice which tends to do harm to the Empire, or our prestige, is not only unnecessary, but sinful. Thus, if a British merchant out here, under mistaken ideas of patriotism, were to sacrifice a thriving business, and so render himself unable to give further pecuniary assistance, such a sacrifice would be both unnecessary, and injurious to our country.

My meaning in deprecating "unnecessary sacrifices" should have been as plain as the signature to my last letter evidently was not; more particularly as I went on to say that patriotism is shown by making sacrifices which are clearly for the benefit of the Empire.

Good can undoubtedly be done by subscribing all possible to the War Savings Association and War funds, generally; and everyone should now subscribe what he can, so long as he does not thereby prevent himself from subscribing in the future.

"Plebis" also takes exception to my statement that the heart should not be worn on the sleeve, and says that it is "doubtful whether close secrecy of thought or excessive reserve of speech is desirable." Here, again, I most fully agree, provided that the open expression of thought does not have a depressing effect on others. If it is calculated to have that effect (as would certainly be the wearing of a long face, and expressions of grief) then it is hopelessly wrong.—

Yours etc.,

C. D. WILKINSON.

9, Queen's Road, Hongkong, March 6th.

COMPANY REPORTS.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LIMITED, AND REDUCED.

Subject to audit, the Directors of the Green Island Cement Co., Ltd., will at the forthcoming meeting of shareholders, to be held on 27th inst., recommend the following allocation of profits:—

To write off Deep Water Bay buildings and machinery—\$ 20,000.00
To write off Steamers, Launches and Lighters 10,000.00
To pay a dividend of 80 cents per share 320,000.00
To pay a bonus to Staff 13,686.29
To place to reserve fund 150,000.00
And carry forward to credit of next year's account about 110,000.00

HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

The approximate statement of traffic receipts for the week ending 3rd March is as follows:—

	Receipts for week.	Aggregate receipts for 9 weeks.
This Year	\$19,964	\$126,732
Last Year	11,043	114,192
Increase	\$ 8,921	12,540

A KOWLOON NUISANCE.

RESIDENTS' PETITION TO BE PRESENTED TO GOVERNMENT.

Before proceeding with the ordinary business at the meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board yesterday, Mr. Goldring moved the suspension of the standing orders in order to allow him to bring forward what he described as an urgent matter affecting the Kowloon residents. He said that he had an urgent notice of motion to bring forward dealing with the richa coolie convenience which was in course of erection on the richa stand immediately outside the Kowloon ferry wharf, also the shelter. He considered it to be a matter of urgency, because the work had already been commenced. His motion was:—"That the Government be requested to suspend the work on the coolie latrine and shelter at Tsim Tsai Tsai, until an opportunity has been afforded the residents of Kowloon of presenting a petition to H.E. the Governor on the matter." Mr. Goldring said the work had already been commenced, but the Kowloon residents were of the opinion that the site selected was a most objectionable one. The matter was passed at a previous meeting by a bare quorum by a majority of one and Dr. Ozorio did not vote. He thought it was a very urgent case, and that the work should be stopped before any further expense was incurred.

If it would be unfair to the residents of Kowloon, who were the persons most affected, if the work were allowed to go forward without having a say in the matter.

The standing orders were suspended, and Mr. Goldring then went on to say that when the matter was before the Board on a previous occasion he stated that he would oppose the scheme with his last breath, and that would be, practically, his last breath on that Board. Kowloon residents were of the opinion that the building was unsightly, that it would be most insanitary, and absolutely obstructive in every way to the traffic generally in time to come. A number of Kowloon residents had written to him opposing the erection, and it was only fair that they should be given an opportunity of expressing an opinion before any more work was done; they should be given the opportunity of presenting a petition setting forth their reasons for objecting to the erection.

Dr. Ozorio said he fully agreed with all Mr. Goldring had said, and had much pleasure in seconding his motion.

The Director of Public Works said he took exception to everything that had been said by Mr. Goldring, with regard to the convenience. He had stated that it would be a very obstructive erection. On the contrary, as far as his observation went when he visited Kowloon, absolutely no traffic went to the eastward of what he might call the line of richas waiting for hire. The traffic at present in existence to and from the railway station passed to the westward of the stand occupied by richas. He thought the objections were uncalled for.

Mr. Tratman remarked that he assumed the structure was only temporary. There was no reason why, when they might have a tramway service in Kowloon, that another such erection might not be put up.

The Director of Public Works added that no doubt in time the whole of the present arrangements would be reconstructed entirely, but for present purposes it was believed that nothing more suitable could be arranged.

Mr. Tratman stated that from the point of view of sanitation there could be no two opinions about the building now in progress. It was designed for richa coolies, and was placed in the middle of them. If they could have anything better than that he failed to see it.

Mr. Goldring's resolution, that the building should be delayed pending the presentation of a petition by the Kowloon residents, was then put to the meeting and carried.

A WARNING AND A LESSON.
Lord Sydenham, speaking at a conference of teachers in London on January 27th, said that Germany had provided the world for all time with a terrible warning, and also a great lesson with regard to the utilisation of the huge system of national education for political purposes. Within two generations she had Prussianised the whole of Germany. Public morality in Germany had declined most markedly, and there was a great increase in crimes of violence. These were a direct result of doctrines flagrantly violating all that Christianity had given the world. The lesson of this sad experience was that the power wielded by education was enormous for evil, but it must be equally powerful for good when properly handled.

THE WAR.

AN AMERICAN IMPASSE:

PRO-GERMAN OBSTRUCTION IN THE SENATE:

THE PRESIDENT'S RESOLVE.

INSPIRING ECHO OF THE JUTLAND BATTLE.

ALLIES' INTENTIONS IN THE BALKANS:
REFERENCES IN COMMONS.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

FROM THE STEPS OF THE CAPITOL.

PRESIDENT WILSON ON THE SITUATION.

WASHINGTON, March 6th.

President Wilson, in his eloquent inaugural address from the steps of the Capitol, dealt at length with the present situation. He said—We have been deeply wronged upon the seas. Some of the injuries done us have become intolerable. We wished fair dealing and justice, with freedom to live and be at ease, against organized wrong. With this thought we have grown more and more certain that the part we wished to play was the part of those who mean to vindicate and fortify peace. We have been obliged to arm ourselves to make good our claim to a certain minimum of right and freedom of action. We stand firm in armed neutrality. We may even be drawn on by circumstances to more immediate association in the great struggle itself.

AMERICA AND ARMED NEUTRALITY.

THE "BOILING POINT" REACHED.

WASHINGTON, March 6th.

The fact that the Armed Neutrality Bill was talked out in the Senate by the filibusters in nowise affects President Wilson's position, since it merely means that a handful of Obstructionists talked against the clock until noon, when Congress automatically expired.

President Wilson then took the oath for the new term, and he will inaugurally address the new Senate to-day, when a most important pronouncement is expected.

Meanwhile "German insolence," for example, the Mexican intrigue, is stirring up American feeling to boiling point. Attention is called to the fact that Germany calmly bartered the American States of which Texas alone is larger than the whole of Germany.

EARLIER CABLES.

AMERICA AND GERMANY. THE DEADLOCK IN THE SENATE.

WASHINGTON, March 5th.

President Wilson, in a statement last evening, informed the country that he was without power to arm merchantmen or to take other steps to meet the submarine menace without the authority of Congress. An extra session was required to give him the authority, but that would be useless while the Senate works under the present rule, permitting a small minority to keep an overwhelming majority at bay. He proposes to call a special Session of the Senate to-day to revise the rules and supply the means for action to save the country from disaster.

CIRCUMVENTING PRO-GERMANS.

WASHINGTON, March 5th.

The Senate meets to-day under extraordinary circumstances.

President Wilson will deliver, in the morning, his inaugural message from the steps of the Capitol, but meanwhile he has stirred up the nation to the core by a manifesto denouncing "the little group of wilful men, representing only their own opinion," who withstood five hundred supporters of the Government policy at a crisis fraught with more far-reaching possibilities of national danger than any Government has ever experienced.

President Wilson emphasizes that the whole nation supports the Government with unprecedented unanimity, and says the impression may be created abroad that other Governments may do as they please without the fear of America doing anything. The great Government of the United States has been rendered helpless and contemptible, and the only remedy is to alter the rules of the Senate. The country can be relied upon to draw the needed moral.

LATEST CABLES.

BRITAIN'S MAN-POWER.

MR. CHURCHILL'S IDEA.

LONDON, March 5th.

In the House of Commons, in the course of a debate on the Army Estimates, Mr. Churchill declared that in order to achieve a decisive result at Salonika, larger armies were required, while our tonnage from various causes would steadily diminish. He admitted that our honourable obligations to M. Venizelos could not be brushed aside. Referring, in this connection, to the possibility of supplementing our man-power from India and elsewhere, he recalled that last year he urged the Government to form from ten to twelve Indian divisions for use in 1917. If that suggestion had been adopted we would now have relieved for service in France 80,000 British troops from Egypt, Salonika, and possibly, Mesopotamia.

In conclusion Mr. Churchill declared that the tardy action taken by the India Office, after immense pressure, in adopting compulsion for Europeans in India and enabling India to bear a share of the cost of the war, was still inadequate. Greater effort was necessary and possible. What applied to India also applied to Africa, where measures were now being taken which could easily have been taken a year ago with immense benefit to ourselves.

BRITAIN'S INTENTIONS IN THE BALKANS.

In replying to the debate on the Army Estimates, Mr. Bonar Law said it was quite impossible for the Government to indicate its intentions regarding their forces at Salonika. He declined to assist the enemy by saying whether these forces were intended to be offensive or defensive. Referring to the difference of opinion regarding the advisability of the Expedition, he pointed out that the war policy as a whole could not possibly be the policy of the British Government solely. It would be extremely inadvisable to withdraw the Expedition now. He deprecated the proposal of a secret session to discuss the subject. He acknowledged that difficulties had arisen in Greece and the Balkans because the Allies' policy differed, but said that some advance in this respect had recently been made. The Allies were now carrying out a common policy. He denied that any threats had been used to induce Roumania to enter the war, and asserted that there was no reason to condemn the Allies.

NATIONAL SERVICE VOLUNTEERS.

HALF A MILLION WANTED.

LONDON, March 6th.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain, speaking in London, said that we now have 100,000 National Service Volunteers, but we wanted half a million.

THE IRISH PROBLEM. DISCUSSION THIS WEEK.

LONDON, March 6th.

Interest in the Parliamentary week centres in Mr. T. P. O'Connor's motion on Wednesday demanding immediate Home Rule.

Mr. Reid has placed on the table an amendment deprecating such legislation during the war.

Mr. Lloyd George is expected to participate, although at present confined to his bed with a cold.

THE ALLIED CONFERENCE.

LORD MILNER'S OPINION.

LONDON, March 5th.

Lord Milner, interviewed by Reuters, said the results of the Allied Conference at Petrograd had exceeded his expectations. These results were largely owing to the support of the Tsar, who had been particularly gracious.

His Lordship insisted that the war spirit in Russia was unanimous; the only controversy regarding the waging of the war dealt with the most effective form of administration.

ROUMANIAN OIL WELLS.

HONOUR FOR DIRECTOR OF THEIR DESTRUCTION.

JASSY, March 5th.

The King has conferred the Order of Commander of the Star of Roumania on Colonel Norton Griffiths, who directed the destruction of the Roumanian oil wells.

MADE IN GERMANY.

PRISONERS EXPOSED TO FIRE.

AMSTERDAM, March 6th.

In the Reichstag, the War Minister alleged that the prisoners in the hands of the Allies were exposed to fire, and he announced the institution of similar reprisals and other restrictions on prisoners.

The Press Bureau exposes many of the Minister's misstatements, and demonstrates that the allegation was made to disguise the fact that the prisoners in German hands were employed in the dangerous zone long before the French employed German prisoners on their front.

EARLIER CABLES.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DISSOLVED.

FORCED BY OBSTRUCTIVE TACTICS OF LABOURITES.

SYDNEY, March 5th.

Owing to the obstructive tactics of the Labourites, the Federal Government has suddenly announced the dissolution of Parliament, entailing the indefinite postponement of Mr. Hughes' visit to England.

SENTENCE ON A SPY.

LONDON, March 5th.

The Press Bureau announces that in the case of a prisoner who was court-martialled in London and sentenced to death for espionage, the finding was confirmed, but the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life.

The Balkans.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BULGARIAN TRENCHES SNOWED UP.

THE CONDITION OF MONASTIR.

LONDON, March 5th.

Reuters' correspondent at the Serbian Headquarters says that the Bulgarian trenches at Monastir are snowed up.

It is officially estimated that the enemy has dropped 2,800 shells and bombs on Monastir during the past three months. Forty-three houses have been destroyed and three hundred damaged. Thirty-two men have been killed and thirty-seven injured, whilst forty-five women and children have been killed and eighty-five injured.

Italian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

ITALIAN SUCCESS.

LONDON, March 5th.

An Italian official wireless message states—We brilliantly attacked and occupied a strong position on an altitude of 2,700 metres in the Costa Bella group, in the Avisio sector.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE BRITISH LINE.

A BIG EXTENSION.

LONDON, March 5th.

The *communiqués* reveal that the British line now extends as far south as Roye, near Noyon, which is the nearest point to the German line to Paris. The British line from Ypres to Roye is 130 miles.

Special correspondents describe the appalling state of the evacuated German ground. Every possible gun and stores have been removed, but the whole battlefield is matted with bodies which have remained unburied for months. Many of the enemy were drowned in mud through which they were unable to wade.

EARLIER CABLES.

FRENCH FRONT.

VIOLENT GERMAN ATTACK.

LONDON, March 5th.

A French *communiqué* states—After an intense bombardment in the region of Courrières Wood, on the right bank of the Meuse, the enemy violently attacked on a front of three kilometres between Chambrettes farm and Bezouvaux. Repeated assaults between Courrières Wood and Bezouvaux failed.

The enemy gained a footing in our advanced elements to the north of Courrières Wood, but our fire smashed all attempts to penetrate the wood, inflicting heavy enemy losses.

GERMAN REPORT.

CLAIMS AND ADMISSIONS.

LONDON, March 5th.

A German official wireless message states—The English attacked to the south of St. Pierre-Yaast Wood and captured a trench sector on the Bouchavesne-Moisains road.

We stormed and captured a French position in Courrières Wood, on a front of 1,600 metres, and repulsed nocturnal counter-attacks.

We captured an important position in the south-east corner of Fosses Wood, taking prisoner 578 and capturing sixteen machine-guns and twenty-five quick-loading guns.

There were numerous air fights. The enemy lost eighteen aeroplanes yesterday. We lost four.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

SEA VALOUR RECOGNISED.

ECHO OF THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND.

LONDON, March 5th.

The thrilling story of the Battle of Jutland is now fully revealed by an Admiralty announcement of the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross to Commander Jones, of the destroyer *Shark*, which led a division of destroyers in the attack on an enemy battle-cruiser squadron.

The *Shark* was disabled by two shells, when another destroyer came between the *Shark* and the enemy and offered to render assistance, but Commander Jones warned the craft off, saying that if it remained it would almost certainly be sunk. Then, though wounded in the leg, he helped to man the after-wheel, and subsequently, when the forecastle and after-guns' crews were blown away, Commander Jones assisted in keeping the midship gun in action.

THE END OF A GALLANT COMMANDER.

LONDON, March 5th.

The Admiralty's narrative continues—The *Shark* was all this time under the heaviest fire of the enemy light cruisers and destroyers at short range. The crew of the midship gun was reduced to three, one of whom was soon wounded. A few minutes afterwards a shell amputated Commander Jones' leg above the knee; but he continued to command the gun crew while the chief stoker improvised a tourniquet round his thigh. Despite his agony Commander Jones, noticing that the Ensign was not properly hoisted, ordered another to be hoisted; then, seeing that his ship was doomed, he ordered the crew to don life-belts. Almost immediately the *Shark* was torpedoed and sank, Commander Jones being drowned.

The survivors, who were picked up by a neutral ship at night, have been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

QUEEREST CRAFT IN THE WORLD.

HOW OUR MESOPOTAMIA FORCE IS FED.

[BY EDMUND CAMDLE.]

THE BRITISH LINE.

A BIG EXTENSION.

LONDON, March 5th.

For the difficult river navigation of this flat country we have built 130 heavy teak-timbered craft, which the Arab describes as "chias." These carry about forty tons, though three top the hundred; many can take fifty tons, but very many spoil the average by ranging between thirty-seven and thirty tons. They have short, stubby masts and just a bit of sail, and love to pole up river along the bank and drift gently down to a steamer, get loaded by slings of cargo craned out to them over the ship's side, wait for ebb and flow of the tide, and gently drift to shore, sometimes striking the very place they are required at—but just by accident.

Chias can be brought quite close inshore at high tide and very near at mid-ebb, so near that a plank twenty inches wide, two inches thick, and anything up to thirty feet long, can be placed from chias to shore for Persian coolies to carry supplies to the A.S.C. depots on shore. The space between shore and chias bridged by these planks is black squashy mud of the consistency of treacle, and with a bouquet almost equal to our old friend, fish oil.

The boatmen earn a sovereign for the first forty-eight hours of each trip from shore to ship and back to shore, with a crown and fourpence for every subsequent twenty-four hours' detention, and have a skipper and three lightermen to feed on that. When a chias has a hut for the crew built on the stern, steps a mast from 80ft. to 100ft. in length, with a yard of about the same length, and is given a great white sail, she becomes a saffari (Arabic) "saffar"—to travel, and voyages up river to Baghdad on the Tigris, or Nasiri on the Karun.

There are 130 larger and 180 smaller saffaris, making a total of 310 boats for freight, and yet it is difficult to keep the timber we use constantly in work and to shift the requisite tonnage per month to the advanced base 157 miles up stream. Three powerful light-draught tugs for "helping bunches of six saffaris" in the worst part of the river would double their utility, but the right class of tug would have to come thousands of miles by sea under her own steam.

A small saffari is described as a saffari, and these pretty little craft cover the river with their bright sails. They are small enough to run up any creek and across the waste of flood waters, but with crews of at least three men and a capacity of twelve tons and under, the cost of running them is very high.

The word "ballam" means a canoe, and there are ballams of over 100 tons burden and down the gamut to the tiny craft (three-quarters of a ton), which causes Basra to be described as "the Venice of the East." The large ballams are flat-bottomed, rectangular boxes, with pointed and decked-over ends, and many of them are made beautiful with a coat of vivid green paint from stem to stern, pictures of birds, boats, and flowers, and, on the sides, in white, black, and red, are the nursery artist produces, those with five-toed legs growing out of their stomachs and chests, and beards with four legs in "company column" from neck to curly tail.

Small ballams—our gondolas—are just smothered in a coat of paint, and with the curly stem and stern post picked out in brass or a louder colour than the body, or not painted at all. Large ballams with masts, or ballam saffaris, medium ballam saffaris, buntam ballams sabari are all very useful craft.

The "mashoo" is dear to the heart of that enemy to all men, the marsh Arab. Built of coarse planks, about eleven inches wide, on an extraordinary frame of innumerable short, straight ribs, it is a hollow wedge which looks as if it must capsize; but this it seldom does. With peak and stern elevated to a height equal to a third of the boat's length, heavily coated outside with bitumen, and propelled by paddles, it pushes its way through the reed-mazes of the great marshes, and its wedge shape is ideal for such work.

As no one trusts the marsh Arab, and those not born in mashoofs cannot keep them from capsizing, its value for transport is nil, but its quaint black shape, and often quite pretty crew of black-robed women, decorated the local pea-soup scenery. All hours of the day small mashoofs, with two or three paddlers, and grandamma may be seen hanging on to the sides of river craft bartering eggs, molasses, and dates.

GINDY TRAVEL.

Then there is the guffah—a round basket four feet deep and from four to nine feet in diameter, made of palm frond ribs, held together by juniper wattles, and the whole heavily coated with bitumen and propelled by a short flat paddle. It is used to cross rivers and up and down them in a marvellous way. The passenger crouches at the bottom of the basket with wondering eyes peering over its edge. Well may they have cause to wonder, for the craft spins round quickly and is depressed on the paddler's side when he is busy, or elevated on that and depressed on the other side when his paddle clears the water, with so curious an up-and-down and round and piddly round motion that even the Guffahs employed as ferries, as tenders to saffaris, and as human boats to carry eggs, fruit, and vegetables.

Last, there are great rafts of reeds and mats, those building materials beloved by our Royal Engineers. It is marvellous how they ever make their week-long voyages without being destroyed by fire, for Arabs keep smoking all over them, and the fires are kept burning on a sheet of corrugated iron or two kerosene oil tins opened up and hammered flat.

The uses to which they are put by the B.G.E. and his battalions are even more marvellous. We have hospitals, barracks, offices, stables, carpenters' sheds, farriers' forges, store depots, dockyard sheds, officers' quarters, laundries, roofs to our steel barges, houseboats, printing shops, magazines, an R.E. mess, and other places too numerous to mention, all with reed walls and mat roofs—and very nice too.—*Daily Express.*

DYING SOLDIER'S MESSAGE.

WINNING A LEGACY FOR OUR CHILDREN.

NO GERMAN PEACE.

A corporal who, mortally ill, lay in hospital on Christmas Day sent a communication to a friend thus: he had an "important message of some kind" to give, and when seen he told of many of the adventures he had passed through at the front, and added, as his dying words, for his death took place on New Year's Eve, a message on the peace proposals. As sure as God is in Heaven," he said, "if our people are deceived at this stage, then all the tens of thousands of bits that have been done by our men; yes, and by the hundreds of thousands of Allied soldiers who have gone West with a sure faith in their hearts, all will be made a mockery and a waste—the most tremendous vain sacrifice of life and faith the world has ever seen. No massacre of the innocents that history has ever known could give the devil so much pleasure as that. It is all this foggy cloud of peace vapourings that strikes a chill into my heart. Any man who is able to claim that he bases his theories on kindness, mercy, and the desire to spare others is always sure of a hearing with our folk; and they, not having been up against the realities—I see the danger of their being betrayed from the very kindness of their hearts, into the cruellest, most devilish sort of sacrifice of their own flesh and blood, and their own future, and the future of their children and children's children, that the world has ever known."

PEACE VAPOURINGS. "I understand there are a dozen clever fellows like —, who are going up and down the country helping to thicken the fog of peace vapourings, and thereby playing Germany's game for her as surely as though they drew weekly wages from Berlin. Perhaps some of them do. I don't know. But it would almost seem that our authorities will allow anything in the name of the freedom of speech which God knows I have upheld all my life! But what I want you to realise is that this handful of misguided orators go up and down the country repeating all this cruel and mocking rubbish to thousands of simple-hearted men and women, who are very likely to be deceived by it. It should be the first business of the people who know better to undeceive them, and to let the cold light of truth in through the misty vapourings of peace talk. There should be told that the only real league of nations to enforce peace was established by the Allies in August, 1914. Its task of enforcing peace was begun then, in the only manner which can possibly produce any effect upon a people saturated as the people of Germany have been for nearly four decades in the principles of the superman blasphemy, and in the philosophy of aggressive militarism. If any other nation, in the interests of humanity, of civilisation, and of secure peace, desires to join and to strengthen the League of Nations to Enforce Peace, is not the way open to them? They will never accomplish much by making eloquent speeches or by writing. Speeches and writing will not separate an armed and murderous burglar from his awag, and secure peaceful households against his further depredations. That can only be accomplished by force; and it is open to any nation that really desires to secure peace to add its quota to the strength and to the heroic sacrifice of the existing League of Nations to Enforce Peace, which, as a matter of plain fact, has been fighting the battles of the other countries just as much as its own."

CIVILISATION AT STAKE. "What I feel about this thing makes every other feeling of my life seem little and unimportant. Every time I call patriotism is a small thing beside this issue, for in this, believe me, the future of the civilisation of which we are a part is at stake. The people who are thousands of miles away from the carnage may perhaps never understand, though their thinkers must, of course, but truly, our sacrifices and our fighting are just as much for the hundred million people in America as for the folk of these islands of our own. The one maiming of the strength and endurance that has protected all the world west of that bloodstained line from the North Sea to Switzerland, where many tens of thousands of French and British lads lie dead is the sure knowledge that we fight, not for this or that country or territory, but for the salvation of humanity, and the preservation of decency and freedom and justice, as we understand them; and the sure faith that if we are steadfast we must triumph, that if we triumph it is for good and all that this shall be the last struggle, the last sacrifice, and that, by it, we will secure safety and security for our children and for their children. Morally, Germany was beaten before the end of 1914, and knows it. In a military sense she is not yet beaten, and will not be for months to come. Her war machine is a great and terrible engine of destruction and of enforced martyrdom, prepared through forty years to do its present devilish work. Until the Boche is beaten and broken, in the full military sense, no other reward for our sacrifices, and no better legacy for our children can possibly be won."

CANADIAN CROPS.

YIELD OF WHEAT ABOVE THE ESTIMATE. A drastic revision of Canadian wheat statistics is spoken of. An error of as much as 20 per cent, in August, the telegrams received, advised that the correct figure of the desirable character—that is to say, the yield was underestimated. An immense area of newly settled land must make calculation extremely difficult.

The growth of sugar beet is being reduced, the cost of cultivation proving too heavy. This year's supply from last October's liftings will be barely half that of the previous season. Prices have greatly risen, but wages apparently have increased at an even greater ratio.

Owing to a fine season and an increase in the yield per acre the Canadian potato crop has about equalled that of the previous year. But a grave decline in the area cultivated is a very untoward circumstance and in an ordinary year must have resulted in scarcity. Potatoes on the farms in Canada are fetching 3s. 6d. to 3s. 7d. per bushel.—*Times.*

THE WILL TO CONQUER.

STRATEGY AND ORGANIZATION.
MEN AND MUNITIONS.

[BY "THE TIMES" MILITARY CORRESPONDENT.]

Two points in the Prime Minister's admirable speech at the Guildhall on January 11th particularly arrest our attention: first, the renewed affirmation by the Allies at the Rome Conference of their will to conquer, and, secondly, the increasing dependence of our friends upon British support.

It is not by speeches, however eloquent, or by the display of trade returns, however encouraging, that we can reply to the new German military programme. We must all set to work with the will to conquer, and must, all now proceed to give the utmost development to our armed forces with no thought but victory, and in the shortest possible time.

The measures which our Allies propose to adopt with these ends in view are matters for them to decide, while the measures which we should adopt appertain to our responsibility. They cover a wide field and affect not only our Navy and our Army, but all their activities. But we ought to see clearly enough by now, if we have not seen it before, that our military effort on land, especially on the decisive Western front, has not been adequate to secure a decision or even to deserve it. Some of our friends abroad boast with a tendency to exaggeration that we British have 5,000,000 men in France, and suppose that we shall soon win through. We might say also that France has 3,000,000 men in the field and will also soon win through, but statements of that nature serve rather to obscure the issues than to illuminate them. It ought to be known and admitted, not only by Cabinets, but by the public and the Press, that aggregate national strength, which includes reinforcements, depôts, labour battalions, and establishments of all sorts and sizes on our lines of communication, do not express the real value of our fighting armies. We all ought to count in bayonets and in guns, that is to say, in effective combatants, in order to ascertain our chances for victory, and when we count in this manner the figures dwindle to quite a different total.

THE SITUATION IN THE WEST.

The truth of the situation in the West is that Germany has 125 divisions opposed to us, and that the number of French, British, and Belgian divisions, even after taking into account the varying strengths of divisions on the two sides, is not yet such as to promise a decision in offensive war. The offensive devolves upon us in order that we may drive the enemy from the territories of our Allies which he holds, and such offensive, against modern means of defence, demands a great superiority of strength, particularly in heavy guns, but also in infantry and in all the other modern military machinery of war. Before the war we supposed that a two, or even three to one superiority was not too great for an attacker, and it must be repeated again and again that we have nothing like this superiority, and that victory depends upon obtaining it. It is always possible for the Germans to place in the West the floating balance of strategic reserves which they used against Roumania, and if, in the year 1917, we only employ against the enemy a slight superiority of force, nothing better than slight success can reasonably be anticipated. Over and over again in this war the Nelsonian maxim that numbers alone annihilate has been shown to be correct, and consequently our primary aim now must be to provide these numbers, both of men and guns.

The simplicity of this theme is its greatest weakness for civilian intelligence, which appears so ordinary and so brutal. It is for this reason that soaring minds turn disgusted from the West and seek elsewhere, and ardently for a theatre of war where a victory may be obtained at less cost, and by some trick of legend, which will turn the difficulty of beating the chief army of the principal enemy in the decisive theatre—which is actually the only thing that matters. This research for secondary objectives, where we have reaped small profit, has dispersed our armies, and has rendered success in the decisive theatre proportionately more difficult to achieve. Even now there are minds which seek everywhere but in the West for new fields to conquer, and the existence of most General Staffs becomes burdensome by waste of time caused by exposing the follies of these suggested adventures.

Evidently the first desideratum for attaining the objects which we have in view is the adoption of a sane strategy, and the recognition by all and sundry that bad strategy can never be good policy. We have been through deep waters, and we are not out of them yet, because a certain number of Allied politicians would neither acknowledge the sphere nor appreciate the functions of strategy. But, since the Rome Conference, we begin to hope that this heavy weather is clearing up, and that we are in a fair way at last of following the advice of competent soldiers, amongst whom General Cadorna and Sir William Robertson are in the front rank, while our field leaders in all theatres are deserving of every confidence.

THE KITCHENER PLAN.

Given that our Munitions industries are now working at their full capacity and will continue to do so, our crying need is for more divisions and more men. We can obtain fresh divisions in the West by three means: first by sending to the Western front as many as possible of the divisions dispersed elsewhere, secondly by copying the system initiated by the Germans for the expansion of their total of divisions, and thirdly by the creation of quite new divisions at home and in our Dominions and

(Continued at foot of next column.)

AMUSEMENTS IN WAR TIME.

LORD DERBY'S JUSTIFICATION.

The London Robert Burns Club celebrated its birthday festival at Queen's Hall by a Scottish concert to welcome Colonial Scots soldiers. The house was crowded and great enthusiasm prevailed. The proceeds of the concert were in aid of the schools.

Lord Derby, who had been announced to deliver a short address, was cordially received. He said he had the greatest pleasure in being present at a gathering which was not only entertaining our overseas soldiers, but was contributing to the funds of a most deserving charity.

In individual hearts, and in individual homes, there were great sorrows which no time could eradicate, though it might to some extent dull them. But the nation, as a whole, was not grieving. The nation as a whole was glad when it thought that from all parts of a great common Empire men were coming cheerfully, willingly, to lay down their lives, if Providence so willed, in defence of a great and a just cause. (Cheers) The nation rejoiced—and it had a right to rejoice—so long as everything that was necessary was done for the men—that the people's amusement, whether in the home, the open air, or in the theatre, should go on, so long as the public interests did not suffer. Those who came home should be met with cheerful faces, and their time away from the trenches should be made amusing, so that it would distract them from all the anxieties and dangers they had undergone, and fit them for further exertions with renewed vigour. (Cheers)

He concluded that all those present were Scotch (laughter), and, therefore, being in a hopeless minority, he had to admit that the Scotch were infinitely superior to anybody else. (Laughter and cheers) If he were in Lancashire he might not speak so confidently, especially as he knew that in the early days of recruiting he had the greatest difficulty in keeping Scotch recruits out of Lancashire, and keeping the recruits in Lancashire, because the attraction of the kilts superseded any other attraction he could offer. He often wondered whether the attractions in the trenches were as great now as they were in those days of which he was speaking. The Scotch were in one way—and he would say this even in Lancashire—a great example to all the rest of the poor Britishers—they carried their nationality with them wherever they went, and would carry it generation after generation. This advantage gave them in their Scottish regiments, whether formed in Scotland or in the great Overseas Dominions, an esprit de corps which was absolutely invaluable. It was a spirit which was growing up, not only in nations, but in all the counties of the United Kingdom.

possessions overseas. Since the last of our New Armies was raised we have been very remiss in the creation of new divisions, and have, by this neglect, departed from the original conception of Lord Kitchener, which was wholly good. Anyone who cares to turn back to *The Times* of August 10th, 1914, will there find the outline sketch of this conception. This article was written after a long talk of the late Field-Marshal with the writer, and there is no harm in saying now that the proof was revised by Lord Kitchener, and approved by him.

The particular point is that Lord Kitchener proposed to continue, day by day and year by year, the development of fresh forces, whereby he anticipated that, when other Powers were exhausted we should be most capable of continuing the war. This plan gradually lapsed for many reasons, chief amongst which was the recruiting middle, which landed us in a dreadful mess in the autumn of 1915, and is even at the present day far from being cleared up. There was a party in the late Cabinet which thought more of trade than of victory, and to the maleficent action of this party the writer has no hesitation in assigning the main responsibility for the prolongation of the war. This care for trade brought up in the value of our exports to 500 millions in 1916, almost a record, but what advantage accrued from reaching such figure at the cost of prolonging a war which imposed a charge upon us of 2,000 millions a year no one attempted to explain.

Our supreme interest, and our most real economy, was to finish the war quickly, but the contrary course was taken of fostering trade at the expense of recruiting, with the result that we have not yet obtained the necessary superiority of force. We could neither complete existing establishments in the winter of 1915-1916 nor create the new forces hypothesized by Lord Kitchener's plan, and the balance of power, though inclining to our side, did not incline far enough to cause the enemy's scale to kick the beam. We left 4,000,000 men of military age in civil life, thanks to the bolt-holes left in the Service Acts, and to the List of Certified Occupations. Never was any military policy more penny wise and more pound foolish.

We have now a new and a vigorous Government placed in power for the purpose of winning the war, and we confidently expect the measures which the situation demands. We need another 60 divisions in the West, and we are able to obtain them by a resort to the three courses to which the writer has briefly alluded. The necessary men exist, and there is every probability that the appearance of these new divisions in the field will decide the war. It should be the same for the campaign against Turkey. We must have done with half-measures and petty expedients and recognize that the time has come, not to prolong the war by military homeopathy, but to end it by resorting to the grand manner of ancient Rome, the only prototype in history of the British Empire.

GERMANY'S NEXT WAR.

PREPARATIONS TO FOLLOW
PEACE.

[BY FRANCIS GRIBBLE.]

The utterances of public men in Germany often remind one of the soliloquies of the villain in a melodrama. They load the dice in public, and hint to their confederates that they are bound to win because they mean to cheat. But they forget that walls have ears, and that their nefarious plans may be overheard by others besides the packed audience of conspirators to which they are addressed. That is what is now happening in connection with their appeals for peace; and if we want to know precisely what those appeals are worth we must make a note of it.

On the one hand, we have the oily voice of the Chancellor, in whose magnificent mouth butter, for the moment, would not melt. He crush his enemies! Perish the thought of such a thing! He is the most reasonable person going! And not only the most reasonable, but also the most peaceable! He not only wants peace, he wants peace for evermore. As a pledge of the sincerity of his intentions he proposes a League to enforce Peace. Sooner than see such a League collapse for lack of a leader, he is willing to pocket his modesty and put himself at the head of it. Could he speak fairer!

Perhaps not, but he is not the only man who is speaking. Fortunately for ourselves we are able to hear, not only the voice of a Chancellor driven into a corner, and therefore anxious to placate enemies and neutrals, but also the voices of certain representative and influential Germans who, speaking as the Chancellor's political supporters, and endorsing his policy, programme, put their own gloss on it, and assure fiery patriots that it does not really matter, as there need be no finality in the settlement, and another war may soon restore to Germany anything which she forfeits in the present one. That is the line taken by Walther Rathenau. It is also the line taken, with some minor differences, by the official Socialist, Scheidemann; and those declarations are really much more significant than those of the extremists who clamour for the Chancellor's head on a charger because of his alleged objection to "ruthlessness" and "frightfulness."

RATHENAU'S PLAN.

Rathenau is well-known as the ingenious Jew who organised the famous Raw Material Department of the German War Office. He is neither Junker nor National Liberal; and he is even unpopular with the former class on account of his Semitic origin. He may be taken, therefore, as representing the less bellicose section of opinion; but he has, nevertheless, countered the idea of a League to enforce Peace, with a proposal to establish, in the time of peace which he expects, a complete organisation for breaking that peace successfully whenever a favourable opportunity presents itself. There must be, he maintains, a permanent War Economics Department—Kriegswirtschaftsamt—because Germany entered into the present war with economic preparations which the event proved to be inadequate. He lays it down as a maxim that "the future years of peace must be exclusively devoted to this preparation, on which our most intense efforts must be lavished"; and then he goes into elaborate details. He demands a census of production, and the accumulation of vast stores, not only of war material, but of all material necessary to the economic life of the country in time of war, to be kept under the supervision of the State, and he insists upon the desirability of drafting and pigeon-holing a scheme for making instant and effective use, in the next war, of the services of all German subjects, civilians as well as soldiers.

A general plan of economic mobilisation must be thought out and constantly revised, as circumstances require. In this connection we must study the thousands of orders which would have to be circulated, and would run somewhat as follows:—"On the second day of the mobilisation you will present yourself at such-and-such a house. There you will take the orders of such-and-such a War Economic Society, which is in course of formation, and whose instructions will be communicated to you."

Similarly with the factories. The Department must be prepared to notify them what part of their plant will be wanted by the War Office; what orders they must hold themselves ready to execute, which are exempted in order that they may go on with their work; while, at the same time, the Political Department of the Bureau must see to the conclusion of commercial treaties and agreements "so as to confuse the violation by our enemies of the laws regarding exports."

PEACE A PROLOGUE TO ANOTHER WAR.

Such is Rathenau's gloss on Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg's demand for a League to enforce Peace; and Scheidemann's gloss on it is equally interesting, and, in some respects, more significant, for it indicates some of the conditions which Germany would only accept under pressure, and with the deliberate intention of plunging Europe into a fresh war in order to redress the balance in her favour. The chief of these is thecession of the lost French provinces. "If our enemies' objects were realised," said Scheidemann, the other day, "then we betide German commerce, and German industry, and the German working classes, for Germany would be reduced, for an indefinite period, to the position of the 'manichee' of Europe"; and he continued:

"Do you suppose that the war would be really over, if a peace, concluded in thoughtless haste, gave up Alsace and Lorraine? Social Democracy not only opposes annexations on the part of Germany, it also opposes them on the part of the enemies of Germany, because fresh wars would be sure to arise out of every conquest. If, on the 1st of February, we signed a treaty giving up those provinces, then, on February 2nd, we should hear of our preparations for another war in order to reconquer them."

That is explicit. It is not a candid avowal addressed to Germany's enemies, but, as it were, a stage aside in the world

(Continued at foot of next column.)

BELGIUM DEFENDS HER HONOUR.

HISTORIC REPLY TO MR. WILSON.
HER ONLY TERMS.

The joint Reply of the Allies to President Wilson, which was handed to the United States Ambassador in Paris by M. Briand last Wednesday, was accompanied by an additional Note from Belgium. This Note, the text of which we reproduce below, was delivered in the presence of Baron Beyens, Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

This special procedure is designed to mark both Belgium's sense of the warm sympathy manifested towards the captive Belgian population by the United States and her own character as the victim of German aggression, whose sufferings have set their moral seal upon the war. The Royal Government, which has associated itself with the Reply handed by the French Prime Minister to the Ambassador of the United States, desires particularly to express its sense of the sentiments of humanity that have prompted the President of the United States in addressing this Note to the belligerent Powers, and it highly appreciates the friendship towards Belgium which he interprets, with such good will.

As much as Mr. Woodrow Wilson, the Royal Government would wish to see this war come to an end as soon as possible. But the President seems to think that the statements in the two hostile camps are pursuing the same war aim. The example of Belgium, unhappily demonstrates that this is not the case. Unlike the Central Powers, Belgium has never aimed at conquest. The barbarous manner in which the German Government has treated and still treats the Belgian nation does not admit of any supposition that Germany will make it her care to guarantee for the future the rights of weak peoples which she has not ceased to trample under foot ever since the war that she let loose began to ravage Europe.

On the other hand, the Royal Government notes with pleasure and with confidence the assurance that the United States, impatiently await the moment to co-operate in the measures which will be taken, after peace, to protect and guarantee small nations against violence and oppression.

Until Germany delivered her ultimatum, Belgium's sole aspiration was to live on good terms with all her neighbours; towards such of them she discharged with scrupulous loyalty the obligations imposed on her by her neutrality. How was she rewarded by Germany for the confidence she showed? Overnight, without plausible warrant, her neutrality was violated, her territory was invaded, and the Imperial Chancellor, in announcing to the Reichstag this violation of right and of treaty, was compelled to admit the iniquity of such an act, and to promise that reparation would be made. But the Germans, after occupying Belgian territory, showed themselves no more observant of the rules of international law or the provisions of the Hague Conventions. They exhausted the resources of the country by exactions as heavy as they were arbitrary; they deliberately ruined its industries, destroyed whole towns, and put to death or imprisoned a considerable number of inhabitants. Even while they loudly proclaimed their desire to put an end to the horrors of the war, they aggravated the rigours of the occupation by carrying Belgian workers into slavery by thousands.

If there is a country that is entitled to say that it took up arms in order to defend its existence, that country assuredly is Belgium. Compelled by force to fight or to submit to dishonour, she passionately desires that an end may be set to the unheard-of sufferings of her population. But she could accept only a peace that assures her to her together with equitable reparation, securities and guarantees for the future.

The American people have, since the beginning of the war, manifested towards the oppressed Belgian people their most ardent sympathy. An American committee, the "Commission for Relief in Belgium," in intimate co-operation with the King's Government and with the National Committee, is displaying tireless devotion to the needs of Belgium. The Royal Government is happy to seize this opportunity of expressing its profound gratitude to the "Commission for Relief" and to the generous Americans who are so eagerly bent on relieving the miseries of the Belgian populations. Nowhere, moreover, have the raiding and deportation of Belgian civilians provoked a more spontaneous outburst of protest and of indignation than in the United States.

These facts, which he all to the honour of the American people, inspire the Royal Government with the legitimate hope that at the final settlement of this long war, the voice of the Entente Powers will find in the United States a unanimous echo to claim for Belgium, the innocent victim of German ambition and of German greed, the rank and position that are marked out for her among the civilized nations, by the valour of her soldiers, by her fidelity to honour, and by her people's remarkable aptitude for work.

drama which it is very instructive for Germany's enemies to overhear. Scheidemann, it is said, is no longer entitled to speak for the Social Democrats, though he still professes to belong to the party, but he has only forfeited that right by consenting to serve as the Chancellor's unofficial mouthpiece. What Scheidemann says, in a matter of this kind, represents what Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg thinks, but considers it inexpedient to say. Through Scheidemann, that is to say, Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg assures the German people that his proposals for the formation of an international League of Peace are only a prelude after all, and that, if he is obliged to cede territory in order to obtain peace, he will not, in the years to come, hesitate to break the peace in order to recover the territory. And that means that, on the showing of those who have the best title to speak for Germany, the Allies were right when they set forth in their Note that "Germany's promise is not a sufficient foundation on which to establish the peace which she broke."—*Daily Chronicle*.

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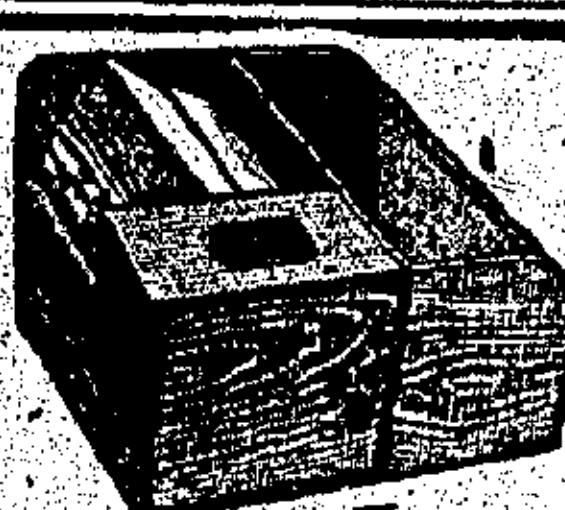
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Day of Week	Day of Month	High Time	Height	Day of Week	Day of Month	Low Time	Height
Wed.	7	9 16	4.6	Wed.	7	2 46	1.2
Thurs.	8	9 20	4.8	Thurs.	8	2 10	1.2
Fri.	9	9 24	5.0	Fri.	9	2 06	1.3
Satur.	10	9 28	5.2	Satur.	10	2 02	1.4
Sun.	11	10 28	5.7	Sun.	11	2 58	1.6
Mon.	12	10 58	6.1	Mon.	12	3 48	1.9
Tues.	13	11 28	6.5	Tues.	13	4 48	2.3

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